AMENDMENT

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A1

--Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2, and SEQ ID NO: 3) depicts an amino acid sequence alignment of the extracellular domains of the M2 proteins of 37 different influenza type A strains, wherein the amino acid residues in bold text denote the variable amino acid positions.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A2

--Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 9 and SEQ ID NO: 10) shows the M2 coding sequence for the influenza strain A/Kagoshima/10/95 (H3N2) that was used in the methods of Example 1.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A3

--Figure 4 (SEQ ID NO: 11) is an annotated depiction of the nucleotide sequence of the pM2-FL plasmid.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 48, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Blood samples were collected two weeks following the second and third immunizations. Sera were analyzed for M2-specific antibody responses using an ELISA assay in which 96-well plates were pre-coated with an M2 synthetic peptide consisting of the following sequence: NH_2-SLLTEVETPIRNEWECR-COOH (SEQ ID NO:8). ELISA plates were coated with the M2 peptide overnight at 4°C using the peptide in phosphate buffered saline (PBS) at a concentration of 1 μg/ml. On the next day, plates were blocked with 2% bovine serum albumin (BSA) in PBS for 1 hour at room temperature and were then washed three times with wash buffer (10 mM Tris-buffered saline, 0.1% Brij-35). Serum samples, diluted in 1% BSA / PBS / 0.1% Tween-20, were added to the plates and incubated at room temperature for 2 hours. Plates were then washed three times with wash buffer. The detection antibody consisted of a goat anti-swine / horse radish peroxidase conjugate diluted 1:3200 in PBS / 0.1% Tween-20. After addition of the diluted detection antibody, plates were incubated at room temperature for 60 minutes. Plates were again washed three times with was buffer and 100 μl of TMP substrate was added. After 20 minutes, color development was stopped by the addition of 1N H_2SO_4. Plates were read at 450 nm.--

A4